

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-8 are presented for consideration, with Claim 1 being independent.

Editorial changes have been made to the specification to improve its idiomatic English form. In addition, a new abstract is being submitted.

In the claims, Claim 1 has been amended to better set forth Applicant's claimed invention, and editorial changes have been made to Claims 1 and 3-8. Claim 2 has been cancelled.

Initially, Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Particular attention was paid to the grounds for this rejection as set forth on page 2 of the Office Action in amending Claim 1 as shown above. In particular, Claim 1 now recites control means for controlling a temperature of the drying means between a predetermined temperature T1 and a predetermined temperature T2. Thus, the amendments are believed to overcome this rejection, and it is submitted that all of the claims are in compliance with the particularity and distinctness requirements of the statute. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Ueda '561. Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Ueda in view of Takahashi '538. Claim 5 stands rejected as allegedly being obvious over Ueda in view of Sheldon. Finally, Claim 6 stands rejected as allegedly being obvious over Ueda, Sheldon and Hanabusa (JP '264). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's invention as set forth in Claim 1 relates to a laminating apparatus comprised of conveying means for conveying a laminating object, drying means for drying the conveyed laminating object, and laminate means for effecting a laminate processing on the dried laminating object. As amended, Claim 1 sets forth control means for controlling a temperature of the drying means so that the temperature is adjusted to a predetermined temperature T1 before the laminating object arrives at the drying means and so that the temperature is adjusted to a predetermined temperature T2 greater than the temperature T1 when the laminating object is being dried by the drying means.

In accordance with Applicant's invention, a temperature of the drying means is adjusted from a predetermined temperature T1 to a higher predetermined temperature T2 when the laminating object is being dried. In this way, an effective and cost-efficient laminating apparatus can be provided.

The primary citation to Ueda relates to a laminating apparatus for laminating transfer sheets 10. As shown in Figure 1, laminating heaters 29 and 29' are provided to heat the laminating films, and a transfer sheet heater 25 is provided to heat a transfer sheet 10. A density detecting sensor 26 detects the density of an image on the sheet 10, and this signal is used to control the temperature of the transfer sheet heater or, in the alternative, the passing time of the transfer sheet through the heater (column 9, lines 19-44).

In contrast to Applicant's claimed invention, however, Ueda does not teach or suggest, among other features, controlling a temperature of the heater to be adjusted from a predetermined temperature T1 before the transfer sheet arrives to a predetermined temperature T2 greater than the temperature T1 when the laminating object is being dried. Instead, the heater

in Ueda is regulated based on the detected image density of the transfer sheet, as discussed above.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

The secondary citation to Takahashi relates to an apparatus for removing an image forming substance and was cited for its teaching of a drying unit with upper and lower drying rollers.

Sheldon relates to a printing apparatus and was cited for its teaching of a heat transfer head opposite to a roller.

Hanabusa relates to a thermal recorder and was cited for its teaching of an electrothermal converter.

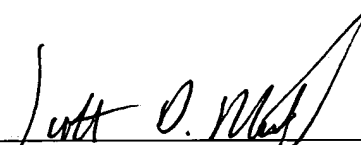
These secondary citations fail, however, to compensate for the deficiencies in Ueda as discussed above, with respect to Applicant's independent Claim 1. Therefore, without conceding the propriety of modifying Ueda in view of any of the secondary citations, such combinations still fail to teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 3, 4, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103 are respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is submitted that applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claim 1 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 3-8 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C.
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below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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